

## A B S T R A C T

The card contains value information suitable for being debited by the machine in consideration for  
5 delivering goods or service. The machine causes a ratification flag stored in the non-volatile memory of the card to be modified between two states, namely: a ratified state corresponding to the case where the preceding transaction performed with the card, whether  
10 with the same machine or with another machine, took place correctly, and a non-ratified state for the case when said preceding transaction was interrupted in the course of being executed. The machine successively:  
conditionally debits the card if the flag is in the  
15 ratified state; causes the card to put the flag in the non-ratified state if a debit took place in the preceding step; then causes the goods or service to be delivered; and if delivery takes place effectively in the preceding step, causes the flag to be put by the card into the  
20 ratified state.